

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00106 041823Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 ACDA-10 IO-11 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /106 W

----- 127325

R 041742Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1230

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 106

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, XG, UK, EI

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: FINAL SESSION AGAIN

PASSES UUUC PROPOSALS AND "ADJOURNS"

REF: BELFAST 103, 101, 98

1. NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MARCH 3
PASSED SLIGHTLY MODIFIED CONSTITUTIONAL MEASURES PROPOSED
BY UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) AT CONCLUSION
PHASE ONE OF CONVENTION BY 46-15 VOTE. CRAIG AMENDMENT
PROPOSING REFERENDUM ON VOLUNTARY COALITION
DEFEATED 42-18. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY
(SDLP) ABSTAINED ON ALL MOTIONS EXCEPT THOSE CRITICIZING
GOVERNMENT FOR SECURITY POLICIES AND FOR UNHELPFUL
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS. SDLP VOTED AGAINST THESE.
UUUC VOTED FOR CONVENTION ADJOURN UNTIL MARCH 9 AND
RECONVENE TO STUDY GOVERNMENT RECEPTION OF PROPOSALS.

2. ERNEST BAIRD OF UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST MOVEMENT
(UUUM) AND WILLIAM BEATTY OF DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00106 041823Z

MADE SPEECHES ARNING AGAINST GOVERNMENT REJECTION OF

WILL OF MAJORITY IN ULSTER. BEATTY SAID THAT LOYALIST PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WOULD NOT "TOLERATE" CONTINUED DIRECT (OR "INDIRECT") RULE. BAIRD SAID LOYALIST PEOPLE WOULD INSIST UPON IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT AND MADE DIRE FORECAST THAT UNPRECEDENTED VIOLENCE WOULD FOLLOW REJECTION. JOHN HUME OF SDLP, BOB COOPER OF ALLIANCE AND INDEPENDENT UNIONIST HUGH SMYTH (ASSOCIATED WITH ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE) SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF BAIRD'S MEANING, INTENTIONS AND METHODS OF RESISTING GOVERNMENT ACTION BUT WITH LITTLE SUCCESS. BAIRD SAID HE WOULD DO NOTHING TO PREVENT "WHAT MR. REES DESCRIBED AS THIRTY TERRORISTS ALONG THE BORDER FROM BEING SORTED OUT." SMYTH ASKED IF THIS MEANT BAIRD WOULD SUPPORT LOYALIST PRISONERS IN OPPOSING END OF SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS. WHILE HE ATTEMPTED MAKE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CRIMINALS, SECTARIAN MURDERERS AND THOSE WHO FIGHTING TO DEFEND PRINCIPLES, BAIRD, UNDER SMYTH PRESSURE, FINALLY SAID "YES". ONE OFFICIAL UNIONIST SPEAKER, MICHAEL ARMSTRONG, DREW ANALOGY BETWEEN AMERICA 1776 AND ULSTER TODAY IN BRITISH REFUSALS ACCEPT LOCAL WILL. THIS SECOND TIME IN TWO DAYS UNITED STATES BROUGHT INTO DEBATE. JOHN HUME HAD QUOTED SAM ERVIN AT WATERGATE HEARING IN PREVIOUS DAYS' ATTACK ON IAN PAISLEY.

3. IN PENULTIMATE ACTION LATE AT NIGHT IAN PAISLEY MADE BLISTERING ATTACK ON POLITICAL OPPONENTS. MOST MEMBERS MINORITY PARTIES WALKED OUT DURING SPEECH AND IT REACHED SUCH EXTREME FIVE OFFICIAL UNIONISTS RELEASED STATEMENT DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM "PERSONAL INNUENDOS" OF SPEECH. THESE FIVE, JOHN TAYLOR, WILLIAM MORGAN, WILLIAM THOMPSON, JOHN MC KAY AND JEREMY BURCHILL ARE AMONG THOSE OFFICIAL UNIONISTS WHO FEAR BUT CANNOT BRING THEMSELVES OVERTLY TO OPPOSE PAISLEY DOMINATION OF UNIONIST COALITION. IN SENSE, OUTCOME OF CONVENTION IS PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR PAISLEY.

4. IN LAST MINUTE PLOY AND AGAINST PROTESTS MINORITY PARTIES UUUC PUSHED THROUGH MOTION TO ADJOURN CONVENTION UNTIL TUESDAY MARCH 9. THERE APPEARS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BELFAS 00106 041823Z

HOWEVER THAT HMG WILL RECOGNIZE CONTINUED LEGITIMACY OF CONVENTION AFTER SUBMISSION FINAL REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. SOME SEE UUUC MOVE AS ATTEMPT MAKE GOVERNMENT SEEM RESPONSIBLE FOR ENDING CONVENTION. WHILE CONGEN RELUCTANT EXAGGERATE OR MAKE PREMATURE CONCLUSION, REPORTING OFFICER NOTES THAT HE RECEIVED HINTS FROM DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS AND MEMBERS BAIRDS GROUP YESTERDAY AND DAY BEFORE TO EFFECT THAT STORMONT "MIGHT

NOT YET BE OUT OF BUSINESS."

SPICER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTING, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELFAS00106
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760083-0938
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760397/aaaadhau.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BELFAST 103
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: FINAL SESSION AGAIN PASSES UUUC PROPOSALS AND "ADJOURNS"
TAGS: PINT, XG, UK, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006